



## City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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### For Immediate Release

## Salins & Novavax Team Recognized with Employee Awards

**Gaithersburg, MD – (April 20, 2021)** At the Mayor and City Council meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021, Payroll Coordinator Larry Salins and the Novavax Team were recognized with Employee Recognition Awards for the fourth quarter of calendar year 2020.

Made up of peers from each department, Gaithersburg's Employee Recognition Committee (ERC) reviews nominations for individuals and teams on a quarterly basis. These winners are then eligible for the annual Employee and Team of the Year Awards.

Larry Salins, Payroll Coordinator within the Department of Finance and Administration, was named Employee of the Fourth Quarter for the consistent, responsive and friendly manner in which he handles the City's payroll. During a most challenging year there were many questions from employees and supervisors involving overtime, compensatory time, leave balances, and other payroll issues. In the nomination application, it was noted that Larry always handles questions quickly, at times within a few minutes, helping employees and supervisors get the correct information and sometimes even resolving problems on his own to ensure everyone receives their biweekly pay without delay. It was stated that Larry's dependable and good-natured efforts have helped the City and its staff get through a difficult year by all but eliminating any payroll problems.

The Novavax Team, comprised of Sharon Disque of the Economic Development Department within the Office of the City Manager, Greg Mann, Rob Robinson, and Rob Emard of Planning and Code Administration, and Frank Johnson of the City Attorney's Office, was named the Team of the Fourth Quarter. Novavax, one of the biotechnology companies developing lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines, has reached a Phase 3 clinical trial in the United Kingdom. Their continuation in Gaithersburg was ambiguous in fall 2020, as they needed, almost immediately, a facility to expand their office, research and development, integrated light manufacturing operations, and raw land for future expansion. While the vacant facility at 700 Quince Orchard Road and land parcel at 14 Firstfield Road were among the alternatives, there were several competing sites outside of Gaithersburg, and other jurisdictions were seeking to welcome the project. Multiple issues associated with the Gaithersburg sites required swift resolution, including determining how the Novavax use would comply with MXD zoning; negotiating a joint incentive package with County and State Economic Development partners; evaluating options for expedited approvals; and swiftly crafting an initial Commitment Letter that included assurances to Novavax that the City would take all reasonable actions to approve their development and permit applications to allow them to meet mandatory federal grant agreement and programmatic

requirements. A series of reviews and approvals that would normally take four months or more were completed within forty-five days.

On October 25, 2020, Novavax announced that it would be occupying all of the 120,000 square feet at 700 Quince Orchard Road, and an affiliate would be purchasing 14 Firstfield Road for expansion. The collaboration and dedication of this Team safeguarded Novavax's long-term presence in Gaithersburg and directly supported the significant investment of at least \$100 million dollars and the creation of hundreds of professional jobs in the City, and further affirmed Gaithersburg's status as the epicenter of the Capital Region's biotechnology industry, as well as its reputation as the region's most nimble and efficient jurisdiction in which to conduct business.

The Novavax story, and that of other Gaithersburg-based companies involved in Operation Warp Speed, was featured in the spring edition of *inGaithersburg*, the City's twice yearly general interest magazine. The online magazine can be found [here](#).

For more information about the Employee Recognition Awards please contact the Office of the City Manager at 301-258-6310 or visit the City's website at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).

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